(a) Preference given to those with Botany as optional,
(b) Good physique.
(c) The age limit prescribed by the College, *i. e.* 23.
(d) Marks scored in the University examination.

Applicants for the post of the Superintendent of Agriculture.

497. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the number, names and qualifications of the applicants, if any, for the Superintendent of Agriculture after it fell vacant;

(2) what is the Educational qualification of the present acting Superintendent of Agriculture and how long had he been in the Department?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—(1) A list is appended (*Appendix VIII.*)

(2) B. A., B. Ag., Pusa Trained; 9 years, 8 months and 5 days.

Selling Agency—Timber.

498. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Kuruvilla has been appointed as the selling agent of Government timbers;

(2) if so, for what period and on what terms;

(3) when was he appointed;

(4) since his appointment has he effected any sales;

(5) if so, how much and at what rate or rates;

(6) how do these rates compare with the average rates which the Government auction sales were fetching;

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—(1) The Anamalais Timber Trust, of which Mr. John Kuruvilla is the Executive Director, has been appointed selling agent for the Government timber at Chalakkudi and Ernakulam depots.

(2) For 3 months on 5 per cent commission as a tentative measure.

(3) The trust was appointed selling agent on 8th January 1932.

(4) The Trust has not effected any sales since its appointment.

(5) and (6). No reply is necessary in view of the answer to part (4) above.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—(a) On what terms? I want to know whether the Government has taken any agreement from the agent.

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Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is the agent to receive 5 per cent commission on logs sold by the Government officer?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—That question has not yet been settled.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Has the Government effected any sale after the appointment of this agent?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—How much approximately?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—More or less one thousand candies.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I want the amount.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—I want notice.

499. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether tenders were called for the selling agency of Government timbers referred to in my previous question 498;

(2) if so, the names of tenderers with their rates;

(3) if not, why no tenders were called for;

(4) what were the circumstances that necessitated the arrangement of sales through the agent instead of selling direct by Government as has been done for a very long time?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—(1) No.

(2) No reply is necessary in view of the answer to part (1) above.

(3) There was a very large stock of timber in the Government depots especially of the junglewood species which deteriorate easily and Government considered that some immediate arrangement was necessary for the disposal of the stock. Just then also came the offer of the Anamalais Timber Trust to take up the agency and since its terms were moderate and reasonable it was accepted by the Government as a tentative measure for 3 months. There was thus no necessity to call for tenders.

(4) Vide answer to sub-division (3).

Local demand for timber as evidenced from the auction sales held every month was very limited and the price realised in such auctions very often not satisfactory.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Why no tenders were not called for?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The reply is given there.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—How did the Government know that there would be no one other than this agent who will give more favourable terms?

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